



Presentation of the **Climate Vulnerability Monitor (CVM)** in Casa America, Madrid, of the "Climate Vulnerability Monitor, a tool which identifies and assesses the vulnerability of 184 countries to the many effects of climate change, and offers ways to reduce its negative impacts

Spanish Secretary of State, Teresa Ribera, says that addressing the climate adaptation challenge requires collective responsibility and a high dose of solidarity

- Almost all countries are highly vulnerable to one of the climate impacts. Spain and the United States are the most vulnerable among developed countries.
- Weather disasters account for the high climate vulnerability factors in Central America, the Caribbean and South America.
- If no action is taken, in the next 20 years we will see a dramatic increase in each major climate impact, with 1 million deaths each year from 2030 onwards.
- The Monitor presents a series of adaptation measures that can be implemented to reduce dangers across four main impact areas: human health, weather disasters, habitat loss, and economic stress in 184 countries around the world both today and for 2030.

September 29, 2011: The Spanish Ministry of Environment has collaborated with EFEverde and the Iberoamerican Secretary General to share the results of the "**Climate Vulnerability Monitor: The State of the Climate Crisis**," published by DARA and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

The key findings of the CVM were presented by Michael Zammit Cutajar, former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Introductions were made by José María Figueres, former President of Costa Rica and DARA Board Member, and Enrique Iglesias, Iberoamerican Secretary General, and Arturo Larena, Director of EFEverde.



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During the presentation Teresa Ribera, the Spanish Secretary of State for Climate Change, said that addressing the climate adaptation challenge requires collective responsibility and a high dose of solidarity. She also emphasized that the Monitor is a valuable tool to identify and assess the impacts of climate change on societies' most vulnerable sectors and systems.

Michael Zammit Cutajar, former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), stated that the study points to dramatic increases in the impacts of climate change in all countries in its estimates for 2030. He also emphasized the wide gap between the magnitude of the problem and national and multilateral responses, highlighting the need to better understand these impacts and thus integrate them into national policies, plans for development and humanitarian assistance.

José María Figueres, former President of Costa Rica and DARA Board Member, added that the study provides a very important tool for the international community to be able to accurately measure and quantify the effects of climate change, and provides effective adaptation measures.

In the last speech of the presentation ceremony, Enrique Iglesias, Iberoamerican Secretary General, mentioned the key role of civil society to encourage governments in a medium and long term vision in the race against climate change, as well as awareness of the climate crisis.

The Monitor calculates and compares the vulnerability level for 184 countries in four areas of impact (human health, weather disasters, habitat loss and economic stress) for both 2010 and 2030, which are comparable across nations. The findings provide a contrast to the majority of existing climate vulnerability assessments that focus on 2050 to 2100 timeframes. At the same time, the Monitor highlights over 50 effective adaptation measures that can be readily taken to reduce the identified impacts of climate change.

KEY FINDINGS

The Monitor points out that almost all countries are highly vulnerable to any climate impact. According to the report, there are nearly 1 million climate change driven deaths estimated every single year from 2030 onwards if action is not taken (there are already 350,000 climate deaths estimated each year today) and the most



affected countries are already on the verge of climate-related collapse.

The report recommends strengthening responses to climate-related diseases, national plans to limit climate impact, and increased efforts for human development and gender issues in the most vulnerable countries.

The effects on the Americas

The negative effects of climate change have a high impact on the American continent. In Central America, Caribbean and South America, the major factors of vulnerability, which are becoming increasingly severe, are due to weather disasters, such as tropical storms in the Caribbean, and torrential rains and floods that occur throughout the region, both in developed and developing countries.

The Monitor indicates that **Spain and the United States** are the most vulnerable among developed countries. Spain is highly affected by high temperatures and desertification, particularly due to the warming and drying of the Southern Mediterranean. The United States has suffered the largest climate change related economic losses, nearly 30 billion dollars a year.

Additional information

The Climate Vulnerable Forum is a global partnership of leaders from 26 countries most vulnerable to climate change in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific, actively seeking a firm and urgent resolution to the growing climate crisis. DARA is an independent humanitarian organization committed to improving the quality and effectiveness of aid for vulnerable populations who suffer from conflicts, natural disasters and climate change.

Spain, together with other EU countries, collaborate with the CVF. The Spanish Secretary of State for Climate Change has participated as a member of the Advisory Panel on the Climate Vulnerability Monitor presented today at Casa de America.

The Monitor was launched in December 2010 at the UN Climate Conference in Cancun, and in London with the President of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed. The Spanish version of the CVM Executive Summary was presented today in



Madrid, spreading the important findings to the Spanish-speaking world.

The next ministerial meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum will take place on the 14th and 15th of October 2011 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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